

From: Mike Fox
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:08am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing as a concerned citizen of the United States, and as a computer professional, to inform you of my opinion that the pending Microsoft Settlement is a bad idea. It does nothing to ensure that Microsoft will stop bullying OEM computer manufacturers into selling their computers with Windows as the only possible operating system, and forcing the end users to pay the price of that operating system. It also avoids forcing Microsoft to open up many key APIs for competing application developers to program against. This gives Microsoft a hand up in developing applications for the operating system (thus using their operating system monopoly to expand their application monopoly).

What I would suggest is that Microsoft's APIs be forced open - completely. If any changes are made to their APIs, they must be published. Also, contracts with OEMs stating that any computers sold must have a valid Windows licence should be banned so that OEMs will be free to sell their computers with the operating systems of their customer's choice.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Mike Fox,
Windham, Maine